

Evening Telegraph

A DAILY AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER.

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To Correspondents.

No notice is taken of anonymous communications. We desire to have our name or ours mentioned in the name and address of the writer—and necessarily for the writer to give his name and address. We cannot undertake to return rejected contributions.

To Advertisers.

Owing to the great increase in the circulation of this paper, we may often request that advertisements may be suspended for a time. It is possible to secure these in all of our editions.

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1864.

HOW WE THROW OURSELVES AWAY.

When we know that the sun, beaming with midsummer intensity on foul gutters and piles of rotting-offal, produces noxious vapors laden with the seeds of disease and death; when the horrors of the pestilence-summer, which swept over sister cities like a great shadow, are not yet entirely forgotten, and the anguish and lamentation have not quitted hearts and homes made desolate; when the Fairmount reservoirs are overflowing and the supply of water is ample adequate to all our wants, and we suffer the scavengers to lie idle, and gaze from day to day on filthy streets and small noisome odors, and with wicked weakness trust to Providence to carry us safely through the summer—we throw ourselves away.

When we know that the solstitial beams drive dogs to madness; when we hear of five little children being bitten by one mad brute, and of men shooting reckless canines in the streets; when we see every day lying outstretched in the blazing sunshine, vagabond curs with inflamed eyes and tongues, and meet them prowling about with heads trailing the hot earth; when, in spite of all laws and dog-scatchers, we come across one muzzled dog in ten—we throw ourselves away. When we debauch ourselves from comforts and gratifications for a whole year, and hoard our surplus funds singly, that we may rub off with the crowd to summer haunts of folly and dissipation; when we try steadfastly to show people at watering places that we are just exactly as good as they are, and by lauding our orders in gruff tones of dictation, and keeping stiff upper lips and spending money without economic scruples, imagine we are raising a general impression that we are persons of great consequence—we throw ourselves away.

When we distress ourselves to know whether spirits do really turn tables or communicate with mortals, and become perplexed about every insane idea or theory which is spawned by ignorance and assumption; when we devote our funds and prayers and our miseries to heathen lands, while, in the shadow of our homes and noble temples of learning and art and trade, there is mental and physical degradation and darkness, demanding the first and most earnest care of philanthropy—we throw ourselves away.

When a youth spends his school and college days in trying how not to learn his lessons, in shirking his duties, and neglecting a due cultivation of his mental powers; when he conceives it to be very smart to drink liquor, although it chokes and distresses him; and to smoke cigars, although the fumes make him sallow and uncomfortably sick; and to play cards, and to swear a great deal, and brag, and to say impudent things to wiser heads whose gray hairs he should respect; when he devotes several hours a day to inducing profligate board on the face, while unseemly exhaustion overcomes his frame—when the young man does this, he throws himself away.

A young woman throws herself away when she "finishes" at the juvenile age of eighteen, with a knowledge of enough French to understand Frenchy remarks which silly coxcomb make in that privileged language, and enough Italian to be able to follow an opera and to sing aria full of prolonged and trying trifles and cadences; when she imagines that coquettish airs and arts will win true hearts, or continue to charm after freshness and vivacity have deserted her; when she strives to be a mere walking mannikin of mantua-makers, and boasts that she never touches a needle or threads dough.

We throw ourselves away when we act upon the belief that we are placed upon the earth with no higher aim than money-making, and allow our hearts to grow weary with worldliness; when we trample down and stife the generous and lofty impulses of our natures, and are content to be gossips, and slanderers, and toadies; when we accept unhesitatingly the opinions of others, and are too cowardly to express our own; when we grow unmindful of the blessings and joys of life, and become silent grubbers and hypocrites; when we distrust our fellow-creatures, and put them all down as knaves and traitors; in fine, whenever we forget what we are, why we are, and whether we are going, we inconsequently throw ourselves away.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

A REPORTERS' CONVENTION.

We observe a call for a Convention of local reporters, to be held in Chicago during the present summer. What the object of the Convention is, or what subjects will be brought before it, we do not know, but certain it is that there are many evils existing in the profession which loudly call for reformation.

RADICALISM.

Nothing is more futile than an attempt to fix a stigma by the application of an epithet. It looks down with imperious, sphinx-like countenance, upon the efforts of such a wise. Nonsense must abide the test of truthfulness, or that of specious applicability. Those truths, which should be so obvious, have frequently recurred to us when reflecting upon the attempts of disloyalists to stimulate all Radicals all whose views are favorable to the stringency of measures for the suppression of the rebellion.

Radicalism is laudable. The Radicals of the world, however, at times, have at least found their deserts after truth, while Conservatives have rated satisfied that it was already found.

Conservatism is an element which keeps the balance in human affairs, but it must ever enact the secondary part, and hold the second place of merit in the world's administration.

Call Progress by what name you will, the strippling, when full-grown, becomes the giant Radical. In his lusty strength he will sometimes topple down what he should have spared; but he is human, and in leading strings to Divinity.

The world reveres its Radicals, even when it laments that they have erred. Consider for a moment but one—ever one whose misguided energies have caused the nation so great disaster—STONKWALL JACKSON. Who can but admire the man, so firm, yet so astute, so virtuous, yet so lost. But if Providence set at times to permit great souls to perpetrate great wrongs, the world's steady progress shows that Radicalism is chiefly on the side of right. Radicalism may err as do all things, but its efforts are directed towards good. In vain are its votaries taunted with a game in which they should glory. The world

has need of Radicals. Better even to fall sometimes from excess of zeal, than to have faith that the past contains the all-possible, the future—nothing. Conservatism is not a creed for Christians. The world tends towards something far beyond its present vision. The path is beset with obstacles; good and evil struggle for mastery, but progress is still perceptible.

Let us not be misunderstood. Far be it from us to praise unreservedly the measures of all extremists. Nor do we imply that in the vital questions of the day we approve all ultra measures. We accord to Radicalism, some of the members of the Committee sought to cast disrepute upon the press representation of the cause of the slaves, and to sustain the article of the Constitution which gave to the public a reporter to sit down and scribble off a paragraph, but this to be creditably exercised requires equal of patient labor and close observation. In the course of their labors, men and brains cannot be purchased but at a very dear price, so the product of them should not be disposed of too cheaply.

The public should be taught to respect the rights of the press, if nothing else gained for them. Only a short time ago, when General Lincoln made his visit to the Great Central Fair, some of the members of the Committee sought to cast disrepute upon the press representation of the cause of the slaves, and to sustain the article of the Constitution which gave to the public a reporter to sit down and scribble off a paragraph, but this to be creditably exercised requires equal of patient labor and close observation.

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THE SUNBURY AND ERIE RAILROAD.

It was long ago, the remark of an eminent financier, and far-sighted political economist, that a railway would connect the tide-waters of the ocean at Philadelphia with those of the lakes at Erie, would do more than any other one thing to develop the material wealth and build up and establish the commercial prosperity of this State. In pursuance of that sagacious opinion, our people invested millions of dollars in accomplishing the work which the late Mr. NICHOLAS BIDDLE suggested.

It is but a few days ago that the last foot of rail required to finish the enterprise was laid on the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, and the idea that was conceived and expressed many years ago, by a citizen who was then considered to be, in that particular matter, a visionary enthusiast, stands before us to-day consummated in its realization. The whole history of the project, from its inception to its completion, is a signal illustration of the popular incredulity with which grand views of public improvement are usually received in the beginning, and the possibility of their ultimate execution by means of individual energy, and perseverance, and corporate enterprise and munificence. No railway ever projected in this country, or perhaps in any other, experienced such vicissitudes of fortune and vicissitudes delays in its progress to completion, as the Sunbury and Erie Road. 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